

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Figure 1, legends and/or icons have been added as described in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Attachments: **Replacement Sheet**

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 13-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, and 27 are independent.

Applicant has added new Claims 13-28 to afford himself a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. The new claims are fully supported in the specification and Drawings, and are believed to be allowable for the reasons to be developed below.

The specification has been amended to correct a minor typographical error noted therein. No new matter has been added.

The cancellation of Claim 12 will moot the objection thereto.

The attached Drawing amendments will overcome the objection to Fig. 1.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, enablement requirement, for the reasons discussed on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the ground that the person of ordinary skill in the art would be readily enabled to make and use the claimed invention given the specification and Drawings as filed. Nevertheless, solely to advance this application to issue, Claim 11 has been cancelled and Claim 1 has been amended for clarity with respect to the specification and Drawings.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Alperovich et al. (US5,987,318), hereinafter "Alperovich", for the reasons noted at page 4 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses all art rejections.

Alperovich discloses a system for correlating a first mobile station with a second mobile station as a permitted home zone party. As such, when each mobile station is in a home zone (e.g. the same cell, see column 2, lines 29-32), and the first mobile station is in speech connection with another telecommunications party, the second mobile station may join the conversation by transmitting a service code to a mobile switching centre. However Alperovich discloses communication only between home zone parties, as pre-configured at a home location register (HLR), see column 5, line 50- column 6, line 7. Further, to enable communication between home zone parties, significant modifications must be made to existing infrastructure, such as the HLR, a visitor location register (VLR), and a mobile switching centre (MSC). For example, see Figures 6-8, and column 6, line 8-column 7, line 6.

However, Alperovich does not disclose at least one of the following elements, as claimed in the present application:

"A system for conferencing communication devices, comprising, at least one conference bridge for providing a multiparty audio conferencing session between the communication devices

a voice interface unit (VIU) enabled for:

- prompting and collecting of information from the communication devices;
- playing voice announcements; and receiving validation data from the communication devices via connections between said VIU and the communication devices, said VIU further enabled to forward said validation data to a validating entity; and
- a conference server enabled for:

instructing a switching point to establish at least a first connection between said VIU and at least a first communication device such that said VIU may receive at least first validation data from at least said first communication device and forward said first validation data to said conference server, said switching point enabled to establish connections for the communication devices; validating said first validation data; and, in response to said validating said first validation data: instructing said switching point to terminate said first connection; and instructing said switching point to establish a second connection between said at least one conference bridge and said first communication device to establish said conferencing session.

Indeed, the subject matter of the present application as claimed provides a conferencing solution that requires no significant change to existing infrastructure, and further is not limited to pre-configured parties, in contrast to Alperovich.

Hence, applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance. To the extent that any issues remain to be resolved, however, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned to resolve these issues.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Replacement Figure 1
Annotated Figure 1 showing changes